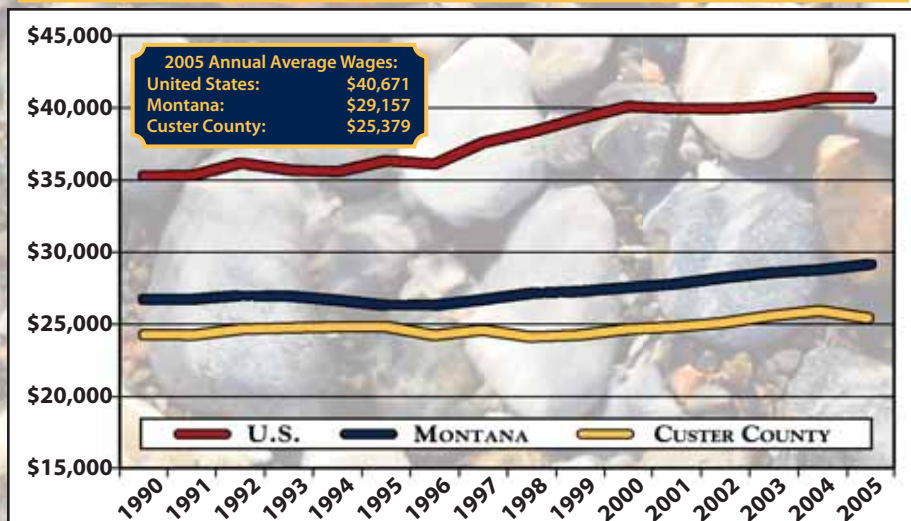


Annual Average Labor Force - Custer County

Year	Civilian Labor Force	Employed	Unemployed	Unemployment Rate
2005	5,715	5,500	215	3.8%
2004	5,772	5,546	226	3.9%
2003	5,719	5,507	212	3.7%
2002	5,741	5,522	219	3.8%
2001	5,847	5,612	235	4.0%
2000	5,988	5,721	267	4.5%

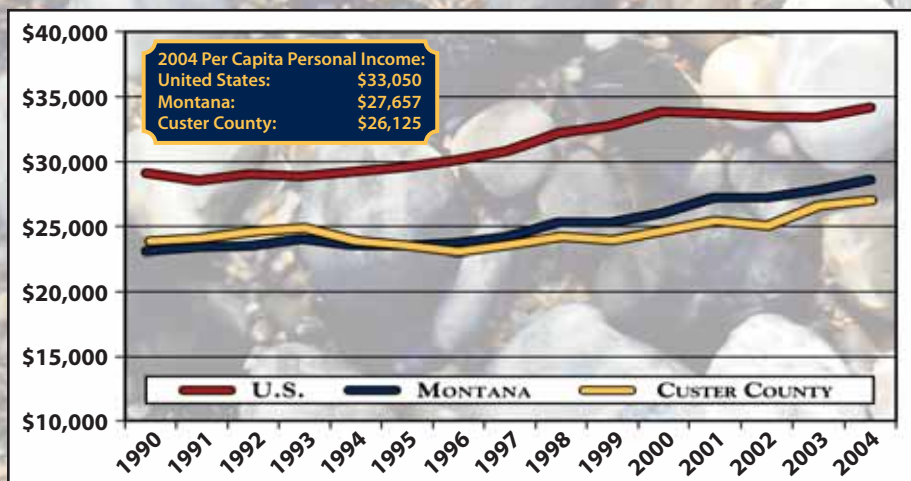
Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Local Area Unemployment Statistics Program (LAUS)

Annual Average Wages, 1990 to 2005 (In 2005 Dollars)



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Per Capita Personal Income, 1990 to 2004 (In 2005 Dollars)



Source: Bureau of Economic Analysis, U.S. Department of Commerce, Regional Economic Information System

Photo courtesy of MontanaPictures.net

Demographic & Economic Information for Custer County

Custer County

RESEARCH & ANALYSIS BUREAU

Research & Analysis Bureau - Montana Department of Labor & Industry
 P.O. Box 1728 - Helena, MT 59624-1728 - Ph: (406) 444-2430
 or Toll-free: (800) 541-3904 - Fax: (406) 444-2638
 E-mail: webmasterrad@mt.gov - Website: www.ourfactyourfuture.org

CEIC

Census and Economic Information Center - Montana Department of Commerce
 P.O. Box 200505 - Helena, MT 59620-0505 - Ph: (406) 841-2740 - Fax: (406) 841-2731
 E-mail: ceic@mt.gov - Website: www.ceic.mt.gov

CUSTER COUNTY

Custer County is Montana's sixteenth most populous county, with an estimated 11,267 residents in 2005. Miles City, the county seat, is the state's tenth largest city, with a population estimated at 8,162 in 2005.¹ Other cities and towns in Custer County include Ismay, Kinsey, and Volborg.

Miles City serves as a center of commerce for much of eastern Montana, with a service area extending 100 miles in every direction. It also serves as a transportation hub for the area, with amenities including the Burlington Northern-Santa Fe Railroad, several motor freight carriers, and an airport accommodating commuter jet service and corporate planes.² Miles City is widely known as the home of the Miles City Bucking Horse Sale, an event which has taken place annually for over 50 years, and nearly doubles the city's population during its three days of festivities.³

Health Care & Social Assistance was the number one industry subsector in Custer County in terms of employment in 2005. Other significant subsectors include Retail Trade, Accommodation & Food Services, and Public Administration. The fastest employment growth from 2004 to 2005 took place in the Wholesale Trade and Arts, Entertainment, & Recreation industry subsectors.³

¹U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

²Miles City Area Chamber of Commerce, www.mcchamber.com/EconDev/index.htm

³Miles City Star, www.milescitystar.com/bucking_horse

⁴Montana Department of Labor and Industry, Research and Analysis Bureau, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW) Program

Resources for Custer County

Chamber of Commerce

Miles City Area Chamber
511 Pleasant Street
Miles City, MT 59301
Ph: (406) 234-2890, Fax: (406) 234-6914
E-mail: mcchamber@mcchamber.com
www.mcchamber.com

Economic Development

Miles City Area Economic
Development Council
511 Pleasant Street
Miles City, MT 59301,
(406) 234-2705
E-mail: milesecon@midrivers.com

Job Service Workforce Center

Miles City Job Service Workforce Center
12 North 10th Street
P. O. Box 1728
Miles City, MT 59301
Ph: (406) 232-8340
Fax: (406) 232-6350
www.jsd.dli.mt.gov/local/milescity

Newspaper

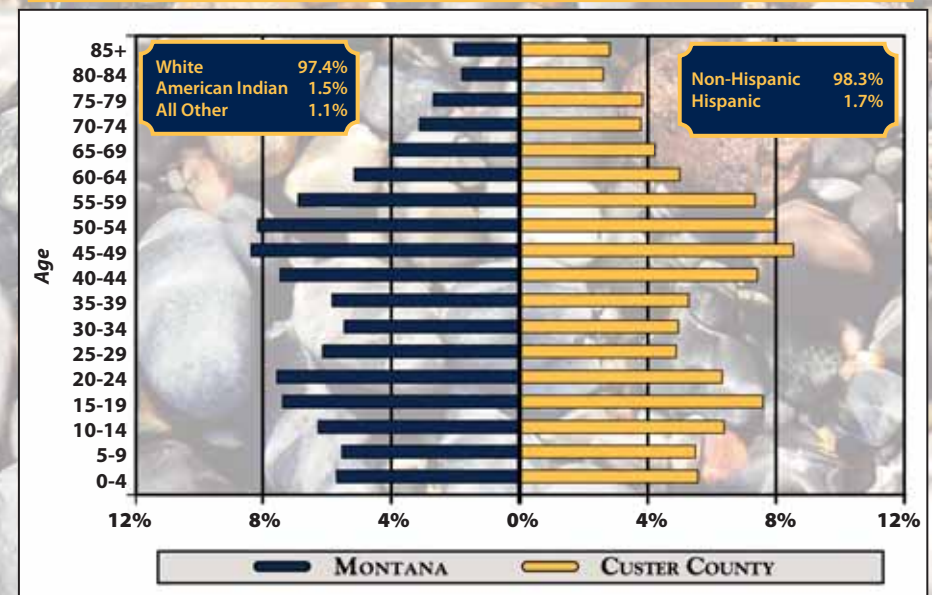
Miles City Star
P. O. Box 1216, Miles City, MT 59301-1216
Ph: (406) 234-0450 or (800) 323-6505
Fax: (406) 234-6687
www.milescitystar.com

Population for Custer County & Related Areas

	Total Population					
	Census	Estimates				
Geography	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005
Montana	902,195	906,098	910,395	917,885	926,920	935,670
Custer County	11,696	11,471	11,434	11,353	11,427	11,267
Ismay	26	26	25	25	25	25
Miles City	8,487	8,325	8,298	8,240	8,295	8,162
Balance of Custer County	3,183	3,120	3,111	3,088	3,107	3,080

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Population Estimates Program

Distribution of Population by Age Montana and Custer County, 2005



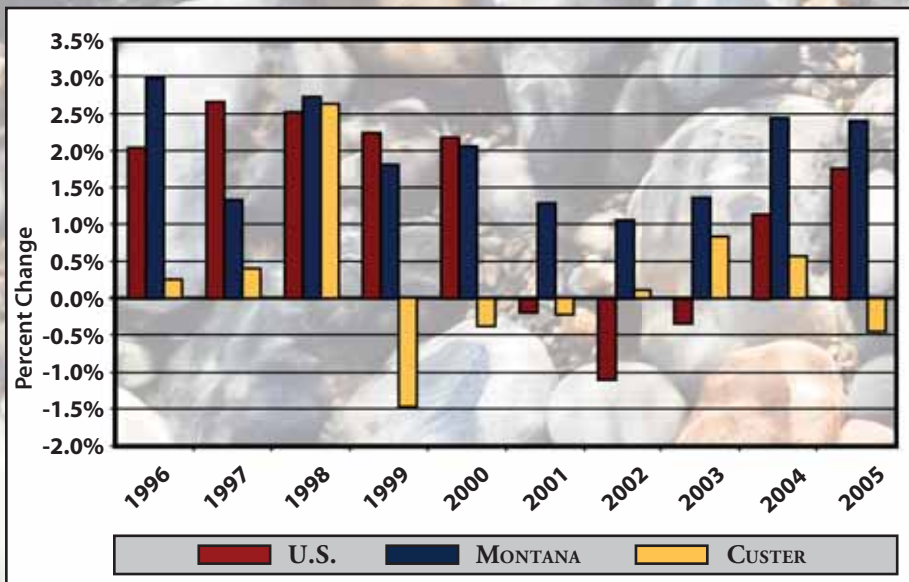
Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2005 Population Estimates

Highest Level of Educational Attainment (Population 25 years and older)

Educational Attainment	Custer County	Montana	U.S.
Less than High School Diploma	15.1%	12.8%	19.6%
High School Diploma (or equivalent)	29.8%	31.3%	28.6%
Some College	27.5%	25.6%	21.0%
Associate Degree	8.8%	5.9%	6.3%
Bachelor's Degree	12.3%	17.2%	15.5%
Master's Degree	4.5%	4.6%	5.9%
Professional Degree	1.8%	1.7%	2.0%
Doctoral Degree	0.2%	0.9%	1.0%

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Census 2000

Percent Change in Employment: 1996 to 2005 U.S., Montana, and Custer County



Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)

Top 15 Private Employers in Custer County (Based on 2nd Quarter 2006 Data - Listed in Alphabetical Order)

Business Name	Size Class	Business Name	Size Class
Albertson's	5	Montana Health Network	4
Eastern Montana Community Mental Health Center	4	Oftedal E H & Sons	5
Eastern Montana Industries	6	Reynolds Warehouse Grocery	4
Four B's Restaurant	4	Star Printing & Office Supply Co.	5
Friendship Villa Care Center	5	Steadman's Ace Hardware	4
Holy Rosary Healthcare	7	Stockman Bank	6
McDonalds	5	Transco Railway Products	5
		Wal-Mart	6

Employment Size Class Coding: Class 9 = 1000+ employees, Class 8 = 500 to 999 employees, Class 7 = 250 to 499 employees, Class 6 = 100 to 249 employees, Class 5 = 50 to 99 employees, Class 4 = 20 to 49 employees, Class 3 = 10 to 19 employees

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW) This list includes ONLY private industry employers subject to unemployment insurance. Railroads and government agencies are excluded.

Agricultural Statistics - Custer County

Farms

Farms: (number)	425
Land in farms (acres)	1,904,133
Average size of farms (acres)	4,480
Farms by size: (number)	
Less than 1,000 acres	244
1,000 acres or more	181
Farms by value of products sold and government payments received: (number)	
Less than \$100,000	313
\$100,000 or more	112
Farms by type of organization: (number)	
Family, Individual, Partnership	375
Corporation, Cooperative, Trust	50

Livestock Inventory and Crops Harvested

Livestock and Poultry Inventory (number)	
Cattle and calves	87,172
Hogs and pigs	115
Sheep and lambs	5,508
Horses and ponies	2,046
Bison	759
Chickens (layers and broilers)	(D)
Crops Harvested (acres)	
Corn for grain	367
Corn for silage or greenchop	5,747
Wheat for grain, All	12,185
Winter wheat for grain	7,657
Durum wheat for grain	0
Spring wheat for grain	4,528
Barley for grain	2,113
Oats for grain	603
Sunflower seed, All	0
Soybeans for beans	0
Hay, haylage, grass silage	33,390

Operator Demographics

Primary occupation: (number)	
Farming	296
Other	129
Place of residence: (number)	
On farm operated	364
Not on farm operated	61
Years on present farm: (number)	
Less than 10 years	135
10 years or more	290
Age group: (number)	
Under 55 years	248
55 years and over	177
Average age of operators: (number)	53.7

Source: U.S. Department of Agriculture, National Agricultural Statistics Service, 2002
(D) - Not Disclosable

Employment by Industry - Annual Averages 2005 - Custer County

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
TOTAL ALL INDUSTRIES	470	4,806	\$25,381
TOTAL PRIVATE	431	3,771	\$22,610
AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY, FISHING & HUNTING	14	95	\$26,130
Crop production	2	*	*
Animal production	10	73	\$23,794
Agriculture & forestry support	2	*	*
MINING	1	*	*
Oil and gas extraction	1	*	*
UTILITIES	1	*	*
CONSTRUCTION	46	175	\$36,127
Construction of buildings	10	20	\$21,391
Heavy and civil engineering construction	9	87	\$49,809
Specialty trade contractors	28	68	\$22,914
MANUFACTURING	14	77	\$21,584
Food manufacturing	5	30	\$19,086
Textile mills	1	*	*
Printing and related support activities	1	*	*
Chemical manufacturing	1	*	*
Plastics & rubber products manufacturing	1	*	*
Nonmetallic mineral product mfg	2	*	*
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	1	*	*
Computer and electronic product mfg	1	*	*
Furniture and related product mfg	1	*	*
WHOLESALE TRADE	25	176	\$25,331
Merchant wholesalers, durable goods	8	*	*
Merchant wholesalers, nondurable goods	15	129	\$23,046
Electronic markets & agents and brokers	3	*	*
RETAIL TRADE	55	689	\$19,246
Motor vehicle and parts dealers	10	113	\$28,825
Furniture and home furnishings stores	3	17	\$16,320
Electronics and appliance stores	2	*	*
Building material & garden supply stores	6	82	\$21,088
Food and beverage stores	4	134	\$18,242
Health and personal care stores	3	*	*
Gasoline stations	5	49	\$14,369
Clothing and clothing accessories stores	5	21	\$16,894
Sporting good, hobby, book, music stores	4	31	\$14,369
General merchandise stores	3	*	*
Miscellaneous store retailers	9	40	\$9,349
Nonstore retailers	1	*	*
TRANSPORTATION AND WAREHOUSING	27	166	\$31,582
Air transportation	1	*	*
Truck transportation	19	77	\$29,757

Industry	Number of Establishments	Average Annual Employment	Annual Wages Per Job
Transit and ground passenger transport	1	*	*
Pipeline transportation	1	*	*
Support activities for transportation	2	*	*
Couriers and messengers	2	*	*
INFORMATION	8	103	\$22,784
Publishing industries, except Internet	1	*	*
Motion picture, sound recording industry	1	*	*
Broadcasting, except Internet	1	*	*
Telecommunications	4	24	\$39,737
ISPs, search portals, & data processing	1	*	*
FINANCE AND INSURANCE	31	255	\$37,632
Credit intermediation & related activity	9	198	\$39,552
Securities, comm. contracts, investments	6	8	\$40,798
Insurance carriers & related activities	16	49	\$29,432
REAL ESTATE AND RENTAL AND LEASING	14	40	\$14,471
Real estate	12	*	*
Rental and leasing services	2	*	*
PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SERVICES	29	93	\$26,407
MANAGEMENT OF COMPANIES AND ENTERPRISES	3	13	\$63,592
ADMINISTRATIVE AND WASTE SERVICES	14	38	\$14,791
Administrative and support services	12	*	*
Waste management and remediation service	2	*	*
EDUCATIONAL SERVICES	3	*	*
HEALTH CARE AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE	47	863	\$27,180
Ambulatory health care services	26	160	\$40,550
Hospitals	2	*	*
Nursing and residential care facilities	6	*	*
Social assistance	13	253	\$14,377
ARTS, ENTERTAINMENT, AND RECREATION	17	142	\$11,705
Performing arts and spectator sports	1	*	*
Museums, historical sites, zoos, & parks	2	*	*
Amusements, gambling, and recreation	14	132	\$11,714
ACCOMMODATION AND FOOD SERVICES	43	639	\$9,138
Accommodation	10	142	\$8,555
Food services and drinking places	33	497	\$9,306
OTHER SERVICES	41	161	\$19,257
Repair and maintenance	14	63	\$25,461
Personal and laundry services	8	42	\$19,917
Membership associations & organizations	14	44	\$10,773
Private households	5	13	\$15,781
TOTAL GOVERNMENT	39	1,035	\$35,476
Local Government	13	535	\$28,309
State Government	14	293	\$35,945

Source: Montana Department of Labor & Industry, Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages Program (QCEW)
 * Data Not Disclosable

The QCEW program compiles data reported by all employers covered under Montana unemployment insurance.
 (Totals may not add due to nondisclosure of confidential industry data or to rounding.)